

DEFINITIONS

“Adults with special needs” means an individual or head of household (age 18 or older) who:

- a. has severe and prolonged mental illness and/or chronic chemical dependency (the head or heads of household, in the case of families); and
- b. is homeless or at risk of homelessness at the time of application for housing; and
- c. has an income at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (“AMI”) as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) at the time of entering the housing; or
- d. is a person as otherwise defined in Section 17a-485c(b) as amended by Public Act 11-64.

“At risk of homelessness” means that the person or family does not meet any of the definitions of homelessness but does meet one of the following conditions:

- a. Is living in a situation where the person/family is at great risk of losing their housing; or
- b. Is coming out of a treatment program, institution, transitional living program, half-way house, or incarceration with no place to go (this includes community-supervised offenders supervised by the executive or judicial branch); or
- c. Is living in an inappropriate housing situation. Examples of persons living in inappropriate housing includes those in units without heat or running water, persons living in unsafe or abusive environments, and persons living in overcrowded, illegal, or unsafe dwelling units.

“Chronic chemical dependence” means a substantial history of at least one (1) year of psychological dependence upon mood altering chemicals, with or without prior treatment episodes, to the extent that the dependence interferes with social, emotional, economic and/or physical functioning, and includes evidence of substantial life losses as a result of substance abuse.

“Family with special needs” means one or more adults with at least one (1) dependent child aged fourteen (14) or younger, and:

- a. that has been repeatedly homeless;
- b. that meets the eligibility criteria under the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (“TANF”) Program but has become ineligible or are at risk of ineligibility for TANF cash assistance due to time limits;
- c. may have multiple barriers to housing stability (e.g., head of household with cognitive limitations, history of trauma, mental illness and/or chemical dependency);
- d. that may be presently involved in the DCF system; and

- e. who have incomes at or below 50% of AMI at the time of entering housing.

“Homeless” means that a person or family resides in one of the following places or circumstances:

- a. Places not meant for human habitation such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings;
- b. Emergency shelters;
- c. Transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or otherwise outdoors or an emergency shelter;
- d. Any of the above places but is spending a short period of time, up to thirty (30) consecutive days, in a hospital or other institution;
- e. Is being evicted within one week from a private dwelling and no subsequent residence has been secured and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing; or
- f. Is being discharged within one week from an institution in which the person has been resident for more than thirty (30) consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been secured and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing;
- g. In the case of families, the term “homeless” also includes families living doubled up with other families in accordance with The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Subtitle B-Education for Homeless Children and Youth which defines “homeless children and youth” as “children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason.”

“Imminently homeless” means that the individual or family will lose their housing in less than thirty (30) days.

“Permanent supportive housing” means housing not of a transitional nature that has as its primary purpose assisting the individual or family to live independently in the community and meet the obligations of tenancy. Supportive housing combines decent, safe and affordable housing with individualized support services. All tenants of this housing must have access to flexible, individualized services for as long as they are needed in order to achieve and retain permanent housing, increase their life skills and income, and achieve greater self-determination. The following are criteria of permanent supportive housing:

- a. Tenants have individual apartment units;
- b. Tenants hold leases;
- c. The length of stay is not limited and is determined by the individual or family tenant as long as the tenant is in lease compliance;

- d. Housing affordability is assured either through a rental subsidy or through rents that are set at levels affordable to the target tenant population;
- e. The tenant's use of services or programs is not a condition of tenancy;
- f. The tenant has access to a flexible array of comprehensive services including medical and wellness, mental health, substance abuse management and recovery, vocational and employment, money management, coordinated support (case management), life skills, household establishment and tenant advocacy;
- g. There is a working partnership that includes ongoing communication between the supportive services provider, property owner, and property management entity;
- h. Projects may include both individuals and families with special needs and individuals and families without such needs; and
- i. Where tenancy is mixed in a single site, project sponsors shall allow tenants access to on-site services without regard to whether or not the tenant has identified special needs.

“Persons or families experiencing chronic homelessness” is based on the federal definition wherein a *chronically homeless individual* is an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition including substance use disorder, serious mental illness, or chronic physical illness who has either been continually homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. In defining the chronically homeless, the term “homeless” means a person sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) or in an emergency homeless shelter.

Recognizing that there are families with minor children who should also be considered as experiencing chronic – or long term – homelessness, this definition also includes homeless families with:

- a. a parent with a diagnosable mental and/or physical disability;
- b. a parent who has experienced significant trauma;
- c. involvement with the child welfare system, including children who have been placed in out-of-home care;
- d. a parent reentering the community from jail or prison; or
- e. a child with serious medical or emotional disturbance/disability.

“Project-based rental assistance” means a housing subsidy program that permits a local housing agency to attach rental assistance to newly-constructed, rehabilitated, or existing units of rental housing. The rental units are made available to low-income individuals or families whose incomes are at or below 50% of AMI at rents that are within the payment standard for that jurisdiction or at HUD-approved exception rents. Eligible households receive rental assistance as long as they reside in the project-based subsidized dwelling unit.

“Project sponsor” means the organization or entity that has primary responsibility for the development and operation of the housing development.

“Qualified Service Provider” means a service provider entity that is a current DMHAS-funded supportive housing provider that is in good standing.

“Service-enriched units” means units of housing which have been set-aside for formerly homeless residents of the targeted populations (as defined herein) and which will receive a social and case management support services subsidy allocation funded by DMHAS, DSS, or DCF.

“Severe and prolonged mental illness” means that the individual or head or household (in the case of families) has a substantial history of a serious psychiatric disorder that has required:

- a. recent hospitalization; or
- b. multiple or lengthy psychiatric hospitalizations in the past; or
- c. extensive community treatment and support services over a sustained period of time; or
- d. the person exhibits signs and symptoms of a psychiatric disorder of sufficient severity to cause a current disturbance in several areas of role performance.

“Tenant rent” means that rent that is determined based upon a percentage of the tenant’s household income. For tenants residing in a development with project-based rental assistance, the rental assistance subsidy is paid to the project sponsor or the owner of the development by the housing agency on behalf of an eligible tenant while the tenant resides in the development.

“Young adult with special needs” means an individual aged 18 – 23 who:

- a. is homeless or transitioning from youth systems such as foster care or residential programs and are at imminent risk of homelessness; and
- b. would not be able to retain stable housing without tightly linked support services; and
- c. has income at or below 50% AMI at the time of entering housing.